AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-21, 29-32, and 35-56 are canceled.

Please amend claim 34 as indicated below.

Please add new Claims 57-64 as indicated below.

A complete list of all claims is presented below.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser pulses, comprising:

generating Q-switched mode-locked laser pulses; and

suppressing Q-switching.

23. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 22, wherein said suppressing step comprises absorbing Q-switched laser pulses.

24. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 23, wherein said absorbing step absorbs a fraction of the Q-switched pulses.

25. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 23, wherein said absorbing step comprises two photon absorption.

26. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 22, wherein said generating step comprises:

pumping a gain medium located within a laser cavity; and

absorbing optical radiation from said gain medium in a Fabry-Perot structure.

27. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 26, wherein said generating step additionally comprises resonating said light within said Fabry-Perot structure.

28. (Original) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser energy, comprising:

evolving cw modelocking from Q-switched modelocking.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser pulses, comprising:

generating Q-switched mode-locked laser pulses; and

preferentially suppressing Q-switching without suppressing cw mode-locked laser pulses.

34. (Amended) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser energy, comprising:

generating Q-switched mode-locked pulses~~; and~~.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)

49. (Canceled)

50. (Canceled)

51. (Canceled)

52. (Canceled)

53. (Canceled)

54. (Canceled)

55. (Canceled)

56. (Canceled)

57. (New) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser pulses, comprising:

generating Q-switched mode-locked laser pulses; and

suppressing Q-switching to yield cw mode-locked pulses.

58. (New) A method as defined in Claim 57, wherein said suppressing step comprises absorbing Q-switched laser pulses.

59. (New) A method as defined in Claim 58, wherein said absorbing step absorbs a fraction of the Q-switched pulses.

60. (New) A method as defined in Claim 58, wherein said absorbing step comprises two photon absorption.

61. (New) A method as defined in Claim 57, wherein said generating step comprises:

pumping a gain medium located within a laser cavity; and

absorbing optical radiation from said gain medium in a Fabry-Perot structure.

62. (New) A method as defined in Claim 61, wherein said generating step additionally comprises resonating said optical radiation within said Fabry-Perot structure.

63. (New) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser pulses, comprising:

generating Q-switched mode-locked laser pulses; and

preferentially suppressing Q-switching without suppressing cw mode-locked laser pulses to yield cw mode-locked laser pulses.

64. (New) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser energy, comprising: generating Q-switched mode-locked pulses to yield cw mode-locked laser pulses.